

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of preparing a patent application with a computer comprising the steps of:

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storing (10) a document template in a computer program which contains the headings:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention

2) Description of the Prior Art

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE;

storing a page break before the CLAIMS heading in the computer program;

storing a page break before the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE heading in the computer program;

storing a footer in the computer program for displaying the attorney file identification on every page of the application;

5 drafting an independent claim ending in a clause beginning with the words "characterized by" and reciting and isolating the patentable novelty and preceded by at least one clause reciting prior art elements to the extent necessary to support and provide antecedent basis for the characterized by clause;

10 drafting claims ultimately dependent upon the independent claim for successively more specifically defining the patentable novelty; and

characterized by storing (14) a duplicate set of all of the claims in the computer program, and retrieving the duplicate set of claims under the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT.

15 *ms* 2. The method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of searching for each occurrence of the word said in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, programming the computer program to replace the word "said" with the word --the-- in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, and editing the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification into grammatically correct sentence structure including adding verbs.

20 *ms B3* 3. The method as set forth in claim 2 including the steps of storing (12) a duplicate of the independent claim in the computer program, retrieving the duplicate

independent claim under the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES, and editing the duplicate independent claim copied under the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES into grammatically correct sentence structure including changing "said" to --the-- and adding verbs without adding further description whereby the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES is commensurate in scope to the independent claim.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3 including the steps (16, 18, 20) of storing the element name of the first element recited in the duplicate set of claims and shown in the drawings, storing the first element name followed by a first selected even number above the highest numeral used to identify a Figure in the drawings, searching for each occurrence of the first element name and replacing same with the first element name followed by the selected even number to provide a first identifying reference numeral for the first element name.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4 including the steps (16, 18, 20) of storing the element name of the second element recited in the duplicate set of claims and shown in the drawings, storing the second element name followed by the next even number following the reference numeral used to identify the first element name, searching for each occurrence of the second element name and replacing same with the second element name followed by said next even number to provide a second identifying reference numeral for the second element name.

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C5 } 6. The method as set forth in claim 5 including the steps adding each reference numeral to every showing of the element in the drawings in response to that element being assigned a reference number.

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B4 } 7. The method as set forth in claim 3 including the steps (16, 18, 20) of storing the element names of the elements in the order recited in the duplicate set of claims, storing successive even numbers beginning with a number above the highest Figure number to identify the respective element names, and searching for each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims and replacing each respective element name with that respective element name followed by successive ones of said even numbers to provide identifying reference numerals for the element names in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7 including the step of interspersing alternative phrasing of several of the edited clauses of the duplicate set of claims.

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B5 } 9. The method as set forth in claim 7 including the steps (22) of selecting and storing abstract sentences including reference numbers from under the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT which most succinctly and specifically describe the elements shown in the drawings with a description of the elements in the characterized by clause commensurate with the specificity recited in dependent claims, and retrieving the abstract sentences under the heading ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE.

20 10. The method as set forth in claim 9 including the step (24) of storing each reference numeral recited in the CLAIMS and in the ABSTRACT OF THE

DISCLOSURE within parenthesis (), searching and replacing each such reference number in the CLAIMS and in the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the corresponding stored reference number within parentheses ().

5 *sub C* 11. The method as set forth in claim 10 including the step of drafting a sentence under the Technical Field heading stating the art to which the invention contributes.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of drafting a description of the specific state of the prior art under the heading Prior Art ending with the problem which the characterized by clause solves.

10 13. The method as set forth in claim 12 including the step of drafting a second paragraph under the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES reciting the advantages of the patentable novelty set forth in the characterized by clause.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13 including the step of adding a heading RELATED APPLICATION and drafting a paragraph identifying a related application.

15 15. The method as set forth in claim 13 including the step of verifying that each line in the drawing is clearly described in the specification.

sub C 16. The method as set forth in claim 13 including the step of drafting a subparagraph for each Figure of the drawings under the heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS to identify the type of view and what is shown.

20 17. The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein the step of storing a document template in a computer program is further defined as storing the following paragraph immediately after the heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is ;

Figure 2 is ;

Figure 3 is ;

Figure 4 is ; and

Figure 5 is .

18. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the step of storing a document template in a computer program is further defined as storing the following paragraphs immediately before the page break before the heading CLAIMS:

The invention has been described in an illustrative manner, and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, wherein reference numerals are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

545 } 19. A method of preparing a patent application with a computer characterized
86 } by performing the following steps: ✓

storing (10) a document template in a computer program which contains the headings,

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1)Field of the Invention

2)Description of the Prior Art

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE;

storing a page break in the computer program before the CLAIMS heading;

storing a page break in the computer program before the heading ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE;

storing a footer in the computer program for displaying the attorney file identification on every page of the application;

storing a Figure paragraph in the computer program immediately after the heading BRIEF DESCRIPSON OF THE DRAWINGS;

storing a terminal paragraph in the computer program stating it is to be understood that reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting immediately before the page break before the heading CLAIMS;

drafting an independent claim beginning with the words characterized by and ending in a clause reciting and isolating the patentable novelty and preceded by at least

one clause reciting prior art elements only to the extent necessary to support and provide antecedent basis for the recitations in the characterized by clause;

drafting claims ultimately dependent upon the independent claim for successively more specifically defining the patentable novelty;

5 storing (12) a duplicate of the independent claim in the computer program,
retrieving the stored independent claim under the heading SUMMARY OF THE
INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES, and editing the duplicate independent claim copied
under the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES into
10 grammatically correct sentence structure including changing the word "said" to --the-- and
adding verbs without adding further description whereby the SUMMARY OF THE
INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES is commensurate in scope to the independent claim;

storing (14) a duplicate set of all of the claims in the computer program, and
retrieving the duplicate set of claims under the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT;

15 searching for each occurrence of the word "said" in the duplicate set of claims
copied into the specification, programming the computer program to replace the word
"said" with the word --the-- in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, and
editing the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification into grammatically correct
sentence structure including adding verbs;

20 storing the element names in the computer program of the elements in the order
recited in the duplicate set of claims, storing (16) in the computer program successive
even numbers beginning with a number above the highest Figure number (18) to identify
the respective element names, and searching (20) in the computer program for each
occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in the duplicate

set of claims and replacing each respective element name with that respective element name followed by successive ones of the even numbers to provide identifying reference numerals for the element names in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims;

adding each reference numeral to every showing of the element in the drawings in response to that element being assigned a reference numeral;

selecting and storing (22) in the computer program abstract sentences including reference numbers from under the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT which most succinctly and specifically describe the elements shown in the drawings with a description of the elements in the characterized by clause commensurate with the specificity recited in dependent claims, and retrieving the abstract sentences under the heading ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE;

storing (24) in the computer program each reference numeral recited in the CLAIMS and in the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE within parenthesis (), searching in the computer program and replacing each such reference numeral in the CLAIMS and in the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the corresponding stored reference number within parentheses ().

20. A computer program and a computer comprising:

a template memory 10 containing a document template containing the headings,

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1) Field of the Invention

2) Description of the Prior Art

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE; and

5 a page break before said heading CLAIMS in the computer program; and

a page break separating said heading ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE from
the remainder of said headings in the computer program; and

a footer for displaying the attorney file identification in the margin of every page
of the application; and

10 the paragraph

Other advantages of the present invention will be readily
appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to
the following detailed description when considered in connection
with the accompanying drawings wherein:

15 Figure 1 is ;

Figure 2 is ;

Figure 3 is ;

Figure 4 is ; and

Figure 5 is .

20 immediately after the heading BRIEF DESCRIPSON OF THE DRAWINGS;

the following paragraphs

The invention has been described in an illustrative manner,
and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended
to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation.

5 Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present
invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore,
to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, wherein
reference numerals are merely for convenience and are not to be in
any way limiting, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as
10 specifically described.

immediately before said page break preceding the heading CLAIMS;

and characterized by an independent claim processor (12) for duplicating and
storing an independent claim under the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
AND ADVANTAGES and for editing the duplicated independent claim copied under the
15 heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES into grammatically
correct sentence structure including changing "said" to --the-- and adding verbs whereby
the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES is commensurate in scope
to said independent claim;

a multiple claim processor (14) for duplicating and storing all of the claims under said heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT and for searching and replacing each occurrence of the word "said" in said duplicate set of claims copied under the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT with the word --the--, and for editing said duplicate set of claims into grammatically correct sentence structure;

a reference number memory (16) for storing successive even numbers beginning with the number ten;

a Figure number memory (18) for receiving and storing the highest Figure number used to identify Figures of the drawings;

a reference number processor (20) responsive to said Figure number memory (18) for storing the element names of the elements in the order recited in said duplicate set of claims and for searching and replacing each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in said duplicate set of claims with said respective element name followed by successive ones of said even numbers beginning with the first number ending in zero following the highest Figure number to provide identifying reference numerals for said element names in the order of occurrence in said duplicate set of claims;

an abstract processor (22) for selecting and storing abstract sentences including said reference numerals from under said heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT and duplicating said abstract sentences under said heading ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE; and

a parenthesis processor (24) for automatically enclosing each reference numeral within parentheses in said claims and in said ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE.

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